There is no proposal before the Government to change the classification of coconut oil with a view to imposing 50 per cent excise duty. However, the issue of correct classification of coconut oil, marketed in various packing sizes, has been under examination for some time.

Inflow and outflow of Foreign Exchange

2306. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI G.G. SWELL:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the break-up of the inflow of foreign exchange reserve including the figures of remittances, investment in stocks and shares of Foreign Institutional Investors, loans and other sources;

(b) what is the estimated outflow of foreign currency in the form of short and long term interest in the coming three years; and

(c) whether the payments of loan interests is to be met through generating surplus trade account balance or through incurring new loans to pay interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Balance of payments data provide the most descriptive presentation of factors underlying the movement in foreign exchange reserves as given in Table-1 below:—

Table-1

India's overall balance of Payments

(US $ Million)

Item	1994-95 (April-Sept.)
Exports f.o.b.	11853
Imports c.i.f.	13385
Trade Balance	—1532
Invisibles, net	1096
Current Account	—436
External Assistance, net	281
External Commercial Borrowings, net	—302
NRI Deposits, net	536
Foreign Investment	2586
Rupee Debt Service	—650
Other Capital, net	2441
Capital Account	4892
Overall Balance	4456
IMF, net	—1134
SDR Allocation	0
Reserves and Monetary Gold Increase (—) / decrease (+)	—3322

Source: Reserve Bank of India

(c) The interest payments on external debt as a ratio of current receipts has been declining over recent years as given in Table-2 below:

Table-2

Interest Service Ratio

(US $ Million)

	Preliminary Actuals		Quick Estimates	
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1. Interest Payments	3793	3804	3689	3874
2. Total Current Receipts	25478	27307	26746	33074
3. Interest Service Ratio (%)	14.9	13.9	13.8	11.7

Rural assignments to officers of SBI and its Associate Banks

2307. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any laid-down Government policy with regard to the rural assignments of officers in Grade-II and III in the State Bank of India and its Associate Banks;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain officers in Grade-II and III in the State Bank of Indore, Delhi branch were given rural assignments out

of Delhi for a period of two years but they were reposted nearby Delhi before the expiry of their rural assignments; and

(d) if so, what are the names of those officers of the State Bank of Indore, Delhi branches who were reposted around Delhi before expiry of the period of their rural assignments stating the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per guidelines issued by the Government, an officer in JMGS-I becomes eligible for promotion to MMGS-II provided he has rendered a minimum of 7 years service in JMGS-I and of which two years service is in a rural area. Similarly, an officer with 5 years satisfactory service in Scale-II becomes eligible for promotion to MMGS-III provided he has put in a minimum of 3 years service in rural/semi-urban area. This is inclusive of two years of rural service prescribed for promotion from JMGS-I to MMGS-II. As regards the specialised officers, he should take the requisite rural/semi-urban experience as and when he switches over to the main stream of Banking.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and to the extend available will be laid on the Table of the House.

NRI held for cheating Bank

2308. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 17th February, 1995 under the caption "NRI held for cheating Bank";

(b) whether it is a fact that the origin of the racket was a letter allegedly written by the Manager of the Dasna Branch of SBI to the stationery department, Faridabad, to procure high value drafts of Rs. 10 lakhs, denomination; if so, what are the details of the letter, whether the authenticity of the letter had been established, or it provide to be a fake one;

(c) whether any person of the Department was in collusion with the NRI in cheating the bank and who was later on caught at Saharanpur branch of the bank; if so, whether any arrests have been made and what are details of the investigation; and

(d) what are the fool-proof steps his Ministry is taking so that such incidents do not take place again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that some miscreants had obtained blank draft forms of different series on the strength of a letter purported to have been sent by the Dasana Branch of the Bank to Circle Stationery Department, Faridabad. The letter purported to have been signed by Shri Sudhakar Gupta, Manager, Dasana Branch contains a request to the Stationery Deptt. to deliver draft books and certain other documents to one Shri R.K. Gupta, officer posted as the branch whose signatures had been attested. The Bank has reported that the letter is a fake one. The case has been handed over to CBI who have registered a case for investigation. Shri Lal Budhrani who managed to fraudulently take delivery of blank draft forms and put them to use was arrested by the U.P. Police at Saharanpur and handed over to C.B.I. The collusion of others will come to light only after the completion of the investigation. The bank has also conducted an internal investigation and is seized of the matter.

(b) The bank has issued cautionary instructions to all its branches to guard against recurrence of such frauds/incidents. The RBI has advised all public sector banks to implement the recommendations of the Ghosh Committee on the precautions to be observed for the issue/safe custody of cheque/draft books and payment thereof which are mainly as follows:

(i) to exercise due caution for verficiation of the drawer's signature, custody of specimen signatures cards, supervision over issue of cheque books and control over custody of blank cheque books/ leaves;

(ii) to introduce a practice of examining cheques/drafts for large amounts under ultra-violet ray lamps;

(iii) to treat blank draft and mail transfer forms as security items and usual precautions